

TIFF to feature films on teen activists

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Body

The Toronto International Film Festival is filling out its lineup with two new films about teenagers leading the charge to save the environment.

Organizers announced on Thursday that the festival will feature documentaries about Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg and Anishinaabe water protector Autumn Peltier.

"I Am Greta" follows Thunberg in 2018 when, at age 15, her school strike outside the Swedish parliament set off a global youth-led movement calling for action on climate change.

Peltier is the subject of "The Water Walker," a short film tracking the 15-year-old's journey from Wiikwemkoong First Nation in northern Ontario to Manhattan to speak at UN headquarters about the importance of universal access to clean drinking water.

Peltier is also set to take part in a special talk at TIFF about the effect of climate activism on future generations.

Both films will be available on the festival's online screening platform, Bell Digital Cinema. Canadians can watch "The Water Walker" for free.

The Canadian Press

Luminato creates new arts program

The people weren't able to come to the culture this year, but the Luminato Festival is taking the culture to the people - and not just in June. The Toronto arts festival, which was forced to stage a scaled-down virtual version this summer due to the COVID-19 pandemic, has announced Creative Current, a year-round program of "intimate performances in unusual places, designed for culturally curious millennials."

Luminato staff Alex Rand and Anne Rawn will collaborate with a group of young Torontonians on designing the events. The first takes place Sept. 19, in collaboration with Artery, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Junction Triangle. Just 30 audience members will be led on bicycles to hidden public spaces to experience up and coming artists. Details will be released Sept. 9 at noon, which is also when pay-what-you-can tickets are available.

See luminatofestival.com/CreativeCurrent for more information.

Debra Yeo

El Mocambo reopens Sept. 10

The storied El Mocambo music venue is officially reopening its doors Sept. 10. Under pandemic restrictions, the opening will be a combination of live event and livestreaming. Canadian-American rock band Big Wreck will perform

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on the second floor of the Spadina Avenue club with the show livestreamed via Nugs.net. "Music is a thread that unites us all and we are working closely with artists and their team members to bring new and meaningful experiences to music lovers, in new ways - safely," owner Michael Wekerle said in a news release.

Debra Yeo

Perry gives birth

to baby girl Daisy

Katy Perry has given birth to a baby girl named Daisy Dove Bloom. The pop superstar and her partner, actor Orlando Bloom, got UNICEF to announce the news on its Instagram account. Both Perry and Bloom are goodwill ambassadors for the United Nations agency that helps children. UNICEF posted a black and white photograph of the infant's hand and said the happy couple told the organization: "We are floating with love and wonder from the safe and healthy arrival of our daughter." In the Instagram post, the couple also spoke about how fortunate they were to have had a "peaceful" birthing experience with good health care - something, they said, many families do not experience. "Smile," Perry's fifth major-label album, will be released Friday. The 35-year-old in a recent interview with The Associated Press talked about finding her smile again after a few years of pain. Bloom and his former wife, Miranda Kerr, have a son, who was born in 2011.

The Associated Press

Theatres are heading outdoors

The National Arts Centre is working with theatre companies across Canada to bring the performing arts to the public square. The Grand Acts of Theatre initiative, announced on Thursday, will see large-scale outdoor works staged in 11 communities from coast to coast as the COVID-19 pandemic has shuttered live venues. NAC English Theatre artistic director Jillian Keiley hopes the project will help prop up Canada's struggling theatre sector while appealing to a whole new audience. "We have the opportunity to reach a public who might not even enter a theatre," Keiley said in a recent phone interview. "Maybe this is part of how people might think of theatre from now on." Performances will take place in September and October. They will also be filmed and shared online.

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